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LETTERS FROM ANDREW JACKSON TO
R. K. CALL

From the Original in the Collections of the Virginia Historical Society.

“Hermitage, Aug. 16, 1828.

My dear Call

On last evening I recd. yours by Major Clements, and am happy to hear that your Mary and the sweet little ones are in good health.

I am happy the address of the central committee at the city of Washington has reached you; taking this into view with Kendal's fifth letter to Clay, and it is conclusive of the Bargain.

The whole object of the coalition is to calumniate me, cart loads of coffin hand-bills, forgeries, & pamphlets of the most base calumnies are circulated by the franking privilege of Members of Congress, & Mr. Clay. Even Mrs. J. is not spared, & my pious Mother, nearly fifty years in the tomb, & who, from her cradle to her death, had not a speck upon her character, has been dragged forth by Hammond & held to public scorn as a prostitute who intermarried with a Negro, & my eldest brother sold as a slave in Carolina—This Hammond does not publish in his vile press, but keeps the statement purporting to be sworn to, a *forgery*, & spreads it secretly. I am branded with every crime, and Doctor McNary, Col. Erwin, Anderson & Williams are associated for this purpose. I have for some days known that they were the issuers of old slanders that appeared abroad, but it is only lately that they have been unearthed, & was not my hands tied, & my mouth closed, I would soon put an end to their slanders. This they know, but suppose when the elections over all things will die away—Not So, I look forward to the first of Decb. next with much

anxiety. The day of retribution must come. I am charged with Burr's Conspiracy & every other crime. Was Anderson & McNary as clear of perjury as Master Masons, as I was of the Burr Conspiracy, it would be a pleasant thing for their conscience.

I believe you were at the Chickasaw treaty. If so, I wish your attention to a publication of Thomas Shelby son of the Governor Shelby & Mr. Todd son-in-law to this Gov.—These men detail a conversation of their father, & Thomas Shelby speaks of things to which he was a witness—Surely when you see it you will be of opinion that Gov. Shelby could never have stated such things, if he did, he has stated a *positive & wilful falsehood*. These statements were made on the eve of the Kentucky elections at the instance of Clay who is there, & for political effect, every virtuous and patriotic act of my life is charged upon me as a crime, & if the whole weight of Executive patronage, with the contingent funds wielded in the most corrupt manner by so many panders does not prostrate me, then I have right to exclaim "truth is mighty and has prevailed".

I have enclosed a newspaper to Col. Butler with some strictures on Thomas Shelby, falsehood supported by the facts subscribed to as true, by Governor Shelby, on the Senate Journals & you will have seen Major Lewis letter published in the Nashville Republican on this subject. I wish you & Butler to look at it, & send me such a statement as the truth will warrant.

My philosophy is almost worn out, but all my enemies expect is, to urge me to some rash action, this they cannot do until the election is over, if my hands are not tied by the event there will be a final settlement.

Mrs. J. unites with me in affectionate regards to you & yours & request you to present the same to Col. Butler & his

Yours truly

Andrew Jackson

Genl. R. K. Call

[Addressed] Genl. R. K. Call
Tallahassee, Florida."

[Endorsed] Genl. Jackson, 1828.